

**Governor's Honors Program**  
Social Studies  
Domestic & International Discussion Preparation  
(2025)

This year's social studies selection will consist of two-issue focused discussions. As you prepare, know that both parts are equal in value. The best way to prepare for these two discussions will be to follow domestic and world affairs.

**Group Discussions:**

Each discussion room will feature an assigned reading, provided upon arrival, and guided discussion analyzing the significance and relevance of a subject in society today. No roles are given. The focus will be on each semifinalist's analysis, listening, and responding ability in a group environment. Each discussion room will consist of 10-15 semifinalists.

Discussion Skills to Consider

- Disagreements should be respectful not confrontational.
- Not all semifinalists are quick to provide their viewpoints, fostering an encouraging environment adds to a more well-rounded discussion.
- Avoid talking over or interrupting other students. Discussions are meant to illuminate the topic at hand, not for any one student to "win".
- Your analysis of the topic should give way to further discourse and discussion.
- Your viewpoints should demonstrate a thorough understanding of the issue, considering the deeper meaning of any given topic versus the superficial.

**Both** the domestic and international group discussions are mandatory for consideration to the summer program.

**Semifinalists should anticipate being onsite for 1-2 hours.**

**The use of electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, projectors, etc.) is prohibited during all parts of the interview process.**